

PTERANDRA VIRIDIFLORA (MALPIGHIACEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM BRAZIL

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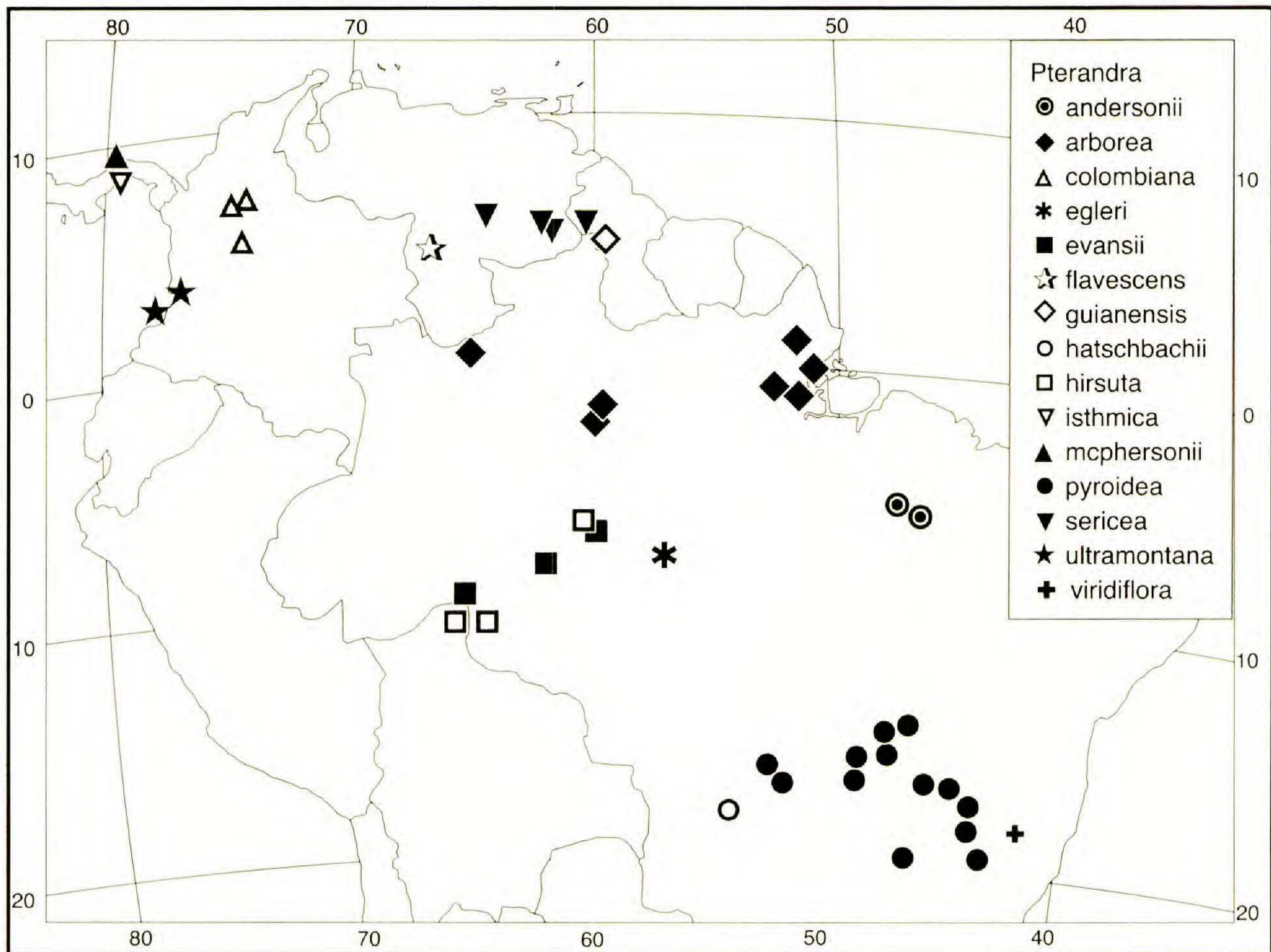
ABSTRACT. *Pterandra viridiflora*, a new species from Brazil, is described and illustrated. The novelty is distinguished by its green petals and the placement of inflorescences in the axils of well-developed leaves.

Pterandra Adr. Juss. is a genus of trees and shrubs of Central and South America (Fig. 1), which is named for its winged anthers (Fig. 2e). It is readily recognized by its stipules and inflorescences. The intra- and epipetiolar stipules are entirely to partly connate, forming two broadly triangular structures that act as valvate bud scales. The inflorescences consist of 2–6-flowered fascicles borne in the axils of bracts or leaves that are crowded at branch apices. The peduncles are absent, and each pedicel is subtended by a bract and two bracteoles. The petals are abaxially pubescent and persistent in fruit. In my monograph of *Pterandra* (Anderson 1997), I recognized 14 species; to these I add the novelty here described.

Pterandra viridiflora C. Anderson, sp. nov.—TYPE: BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Berilo, UHE–Irapé, *E. Tameirão Neto 3204* (holotype: MICH!). Fig. 2.

Frutex. Laminae 6–8.5 cm longae, 2.5–4.1 cm latae, obovatae vel ellipticae, supra glabrae praeter costam dense sericeam, subtus tomentulosae; petioli 0.4–1 cm longi, dense aureo-sericei; stipulae (2.5–) 3–4 mm longae lataeque, connatae, adaxialiter hirsutae, abaxialiter aureo-sericeae. Inflorescentia ex fasciculis sessilibus et axillaribus constans, floribus cujusque fasciculi 2–4; pedicelli 2.1–2.7 cm longi, 0.5–0.6 mm diametro, dense aureo-sericei. Petala pallide viridia, limbo late elliptico vel late obovato vel suborbiculari; limbi petalorum lateralium 5–5.5 mm longi, 3–3.3 mm lati, obovati, limbus petali postici ca. 5.5 mm longus, ca. 4 mm latus, suborbicularis. Filamenta praeter caespitem basalem glabra. Styli ca. 4.5 mm longi. Cocci ca. 3.5 mm alti diametroque, hirsutulo-tomentosi.

Shrub; young branchlets densely golden-sericeous, older ones glabrous. Laminas 6–8.5 cm long, 2.5–4.1 cm wide, obovate to elliptical, apex obtuse-mucronate or sometimes emarginate, base cuneate, adaxially tomentulose when young but glabrate to glabrous at maturity except for the pubescent costa, abaxially sericeous or sparsely so but densely so on the costa, the vestiture composed of hairs 0.2–0.7 mm long, medifixed, terete, straight, more or less appressed, mostly white or sometimes golden, and with scattered longer and thicker hairs, ca. 0.8–1.2 mm long, subsessile or with a stalk up to 0.05 mm long, translucent dots present on abaxial surface, costa and secondary veins prominent abaxially, tertiary veins usually slightly raised as well; petioles 0.4–1 cm long, densely golden-sericeous; stipules (2.5–) 3–4 mm long and wide, connate, adaxially hirsute, abaxially sericeous. Inflorescence of sessile, 2–4-flowered fascicles, each fascicle borne in the axil of a leaf; pedicels 2.1–2.7 cm long, 0.5–0.6 mm in diameter, densely golden-sericeous; bracts 2–2.2 mm long, 0.8–1 mm wide,

FIG. 1. Distribution of *Pterandra*.

triangular, bracteoles 1–1.2 mm long, ca. 0.3 mm wide, linear, bracts and bracteoles with the apex acute, abaxially densely golden-sericeous. Sepals ca. 2.5 mm long, ca. 2 mm wide, triangular (the distal 2/3 ligulate), recurved, glands ca. 2 mm long, ca. 0.8 mm wide. Petals light green, margin erose, abaxially densely pubescent on claw and center of limb; lateral petals: claw 1.5–1.7 mm long, limb 5–5.5 mm long, 3–3.3 mm wide, the limb obovate; posterior petal: claw ca. 2 mm long, limb ca. 5.5 mm long, ca. 4 mm wide, the limb suborbicular. Filaments glabrous except for a basal tuft of hairs, those of stamens opposing sepals ca. 2.5 mm long, those of stamens opposing petals ca. 3 mm long; anthers ca. 1 mm long, wing of outer locules 0.2 mm wide. Styles ca. 4.5 mm long, ca. 0.3 mm in diameter, with scattered hairs adaxially in the proximal 1/4. Cocci ca. 3.5 mm high and in diameter, hirsutulose-tomentulose; torus ca. 1 mm high; mature seed not seen.

Pterandra viridiflora is known only from the type. It is distinctive in its green petals and the placement of the inflorescences. In most species, the fascicles are borne on a leafless node of a short shoot, often below a flush of new leaves, and subtended by a bract composed of the stipules and a rudimentary leaf; in *P. flavescens* and *P. sericea* (occasionally) the fascicles are placed in the axil of a new leaf. In *P. viridiflora* the fascicles are borne in the axils of well-developed leaves of a young shoot.

Because most species of *Pterandra* are known from few collections, their ranges are not well known (Fig. 1). An exception is the showy *P. pyroidea*, which is common in Minas Gerais, the Distrito Federal, and southern Goiás. The very similar *P. hatschbachii* was found to the west in Mato Grosso. Both species are low shrublets and have large pink petals. *Pterandra viridiflora* was collected in eastern Minas Gerais, but in all aspects resembles more the northern species, which are larger shrubs to trees and

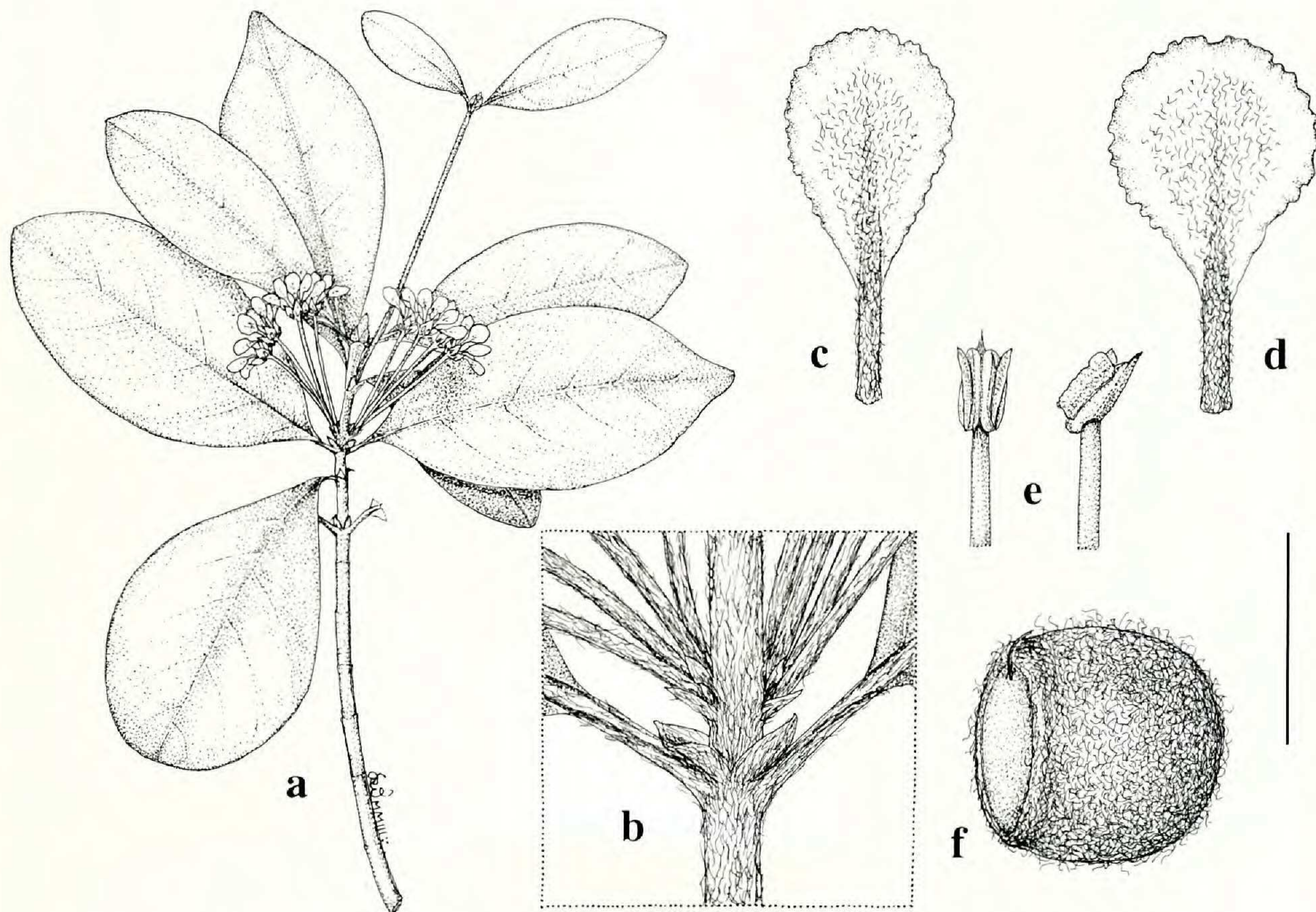


FIG. 2. *Pterandra viridiflora*. a. Flowering branch. b. Detail showing insertion of fascicles in the axils of mature leaves; note the heart-shaped intra- and epipetiolar stipules. c. Lateral petal, abaxial view. d. Posterior petal ("flag"), abaxial view. e. Stamens, adaxial and side views. f. Coccus. Scale bar = a, 4 cm; b, 8 mm; c, d, 4 mm; e, 2 mm; f, 2.7 mm. (Based on *Tameirão Neto* 3204.)

have smaller petals, white to cream (yellow in age). Green petals are otherwise unknown in the genus, although *P. guianensis*, known only from the type, was reported on the label to have greenish white petals. The label data for *P. viridiflora* did not include notes on stature, only that it is shrub.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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LITERATURE CITED

Anderson, C. 1997. Revision of *Pterandra* (Malpighiaceae). *Contr. Univ. Michigan Herb.* 21: 1–27.